

Action Agenda 1999-2004

What Murray State University Will Do To Advance Kentucky's Reform of Postsecondary Education

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Why is it important for Kentucky to have Murray State University as one of its comprehensive universities?

- Murray State provides postsecondary education to students and communities in its service region with emphasis on target counties. This large, rural region has both low-income and low college-going rates (in only three counties do more than 10 percent of adults hold four-year degrees).
- Murray State generally prepares students to be information and technology literate and to pursue lifelong learning.
- With its new program of distinction, Murray State teaches management of sophisticated telecommunications systems.
- Through its Center of Excellence in Ecosystems, Murray State provides opportunities for water-science research and education. Its region has several lakes and rivers.
- Murray State offers international educational experiences for students and others.

How will Murray State enroll, retain, and graduate more students?

- Expand and improve the Roads Scholars Program that serves and works with high schools, community colleges, and vocational schools
- Redirect a portion of Roads Scholars resources to work with public schools and communities to establish programs that focus on students in grades 6, 7, and 8
- Emphasize Africa-American student recruitment
- Strengthen University Studies (arts and sciences) as the foundation for academic programs

- Expand academic program offerings in response to emerging workforce needs in health sciences, telecommunications, agriculture, and teacher quality
- Increase opportunities for service learning, internships, and cooperative education
- Team with other universities to offer shared degree programs
- Create a Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning that brings together resources for faculty development, student advising, orientation, and academic support to maximize students' academic success
- Enhance the Residential College Program, which increases the sense of student unity, reinforces the university's emphasis on personalized learning, and integrates faculty involvement in college life outside the classroom
- Expand the community college program to enroll additional at-risk students and offer them specialized support and remedial courses in English, math, reading, and study skills
- Work with the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University to offer online courses
- Double the number of distance learning courses by 2002 to extend educational opportunities via Internet, satellite, and interactive television

How will Murray State and the publics it serves become more engaged with one another?

- Establish a Center for Regional Entrepreneurship Development to stimulate economic development through the training, assistance, and education of entrepreneurs
- Establish community-based P-16 councils (preschool through college), with university and business participation, to provide forums for ideas and planning to increase the number of college bound students and graduation rates
- Make participation in community-related projects part of the curriculum
- Expand noncredit community education course offerings
- Formalize an annual discussion with representatives of high schools, business, and community organizations to assess and respond to community and regional needs
- Increase involvement of international students in the area school systems and community service organizations

How will Murray State know whether it has done what it says it will do?

- Track the accomplishment of goals through the use of ongoing assessments and institutional research data
- Compare pledged increases in enrollment, retention, and graduation rates with actual figures
- Survey recent graduates on their level of satisfaction with preparation for their careers
- Assess economic indicators in western Kentucky to look for upward trends